

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 OMB-01 AF-06 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAL-01 /072 W

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R 080950Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 1256

INFO USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE CASTEAU

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

COMSIXTHFL

CTF SIX ZERO

USS INDEPENDENCE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN &3/ECAP-1

CINCUSNAVERU LONDON/PAO

USDOCONORTH KOLSAAS

SECDEF/OASD-PA

CNO WASHDC

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USIAC

RELEASABLE AS NATO CONFIDENTIAL

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 1976 NATO TOUR FOR NORWEGIAN PARLIMENTARIANS

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SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 15-21 VISIT BY FIVE KEY NORWEGIAN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS TO NATO, SHAPE, USS INDEPENDENCE  
IN MED SIXTHFLT AND AFSOUTH CONTINUED TO RELEVANT  
DIALOGUE FIRST BEGUN IN OCTOBER 1971 AND WHICH HAS  
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SINCE BECOME A POST PROGRAMMING STAPLE. JOINTLY

SPONSORED BY USIS OSLO AND USIS/NATO AND RELIANT  
UPON INVALUABLE PARTICIPATION BY NATO,  
SHAPE, AFSOUTH, COMSIXTHFLT, CTF 60 AND USS INDEPENDENCE,  
TOUR PROVIDED INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY STUDY CURRENT  
ALLIANCE ISSUES AND DEFENSE PROBLEMS AND AGAIN FIRST-HAND  
IMPRESSION OF NATO SOUTHERN FLANK. POST EXTENDS  
THANKS ALL CONCERNED. END SUMMARY

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1. AT SHAPE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS RECEIVED USEFUL  
INITIAL BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON NATO STRATEGY, INCREASING  
MILITARY CAPABILITY OF WARSAW PACT AND POLICY AND PLANS,  
WHICH CLEARLY BROUGHT OUT GROWING THREAT OF SOVIET  
MILITARY POWER IN RELATIONS TO NATO AND ALLIANCE'S PLANS  
FOR DEALING WITH IT. HIGHLIGHTS OF VISIT, AND ONE OF  
MAIN FEATURES OF TRIP, WAS MEETING WITH SACEUR GENERAL  
HAIG, WHO OUTLINED FORCEFULLY AND CONVINCINGLY THE  
REMARKABLE EMERGENCE OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER, THE  
POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE WEST WHICH DETRACTS FROM  
ALLIANCE MILITARY NEEDS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF  
ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY TO STRENGTHENING OF ITS DEFENSE.  
SACEUR WAS ESPECIALLY PERSUASIVE IN RESPONDING  
TO NORWEGIAN'S QUESTIONS, POINTING OUT (A) THE BEST  
MEANS TO DEFEND NORWAY'S OFFSHORE OIL RIGS WAS TO  
BUILD NATO DETERRENT, (B) NATO WOULD RESPOND IMMEDIATELY  
AND CONVINCINGLY TO ANY ENEMY MILITARY EFFORT TO CHIP  
AWAY AT NORTH NORWAY, (C) COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN  
EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE HARMFUL TO OUR DEFENSE  
EFFORTS, (D) SPAIN IS IMPORTANT TO WESTERN DEFENSE  
AND MUST BE BROUGHT INTO CLOSER COOPERATION, (E)  
ICELAND IS A KEY TO NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENSE, AND (F)  
SVALBARD MUST BE A MANIFESTATION OF WESTERN INTEREST.

2. AT NATO, GROUP HAD VALUABLE SESSION WITH NORWEGIAN  
NATO DELEGATION, WERE BRIEFED ON DEFENSE PLANNING  
AND POLICY AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS BY NATO STAFF AND  
DISCUSSED US OUTLOOK WITH US MISSION REPRESENTATIVES.  
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MAIN POINTS THAT CAME OVER WERE NATO EFFORTS TO  
IMPROVE REINFORCEMENT (A KEY TO NORWEGIAN DEFENSE),  
STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY, THE NEED FOR  
AWACS SYSTEMS. BRIEF RESUME OF NATO'S ROLE IN CSCE  
NEGOTIATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP AND IN MBFR MADE FAVORABLE  
IMPACT.

3. SEC GEN LUNS MET WITH GROUP AND RESPONDED TO

QUESTIONS. HE DISCUSSED DEVELOPMENTS IN UK-ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE, WHICH IS CENTRAL TO NORWEGIAN SECURITY, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF ANGOLA ON WESTERN CONFIDENCE. ON A MORE CHEERFUL NOTE HE DISCUSSED HIS SATISFACTION IN MEETING WITH SPAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE HE SAW IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT. PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD SPAIN.

4. AFSOUTH COMMAND BRIEFING IN NAPLES AND DISCUSSIONS WITH VADM TURNER (COMSIXTHFLT) GRAPHICALLY BROUGHT OUT THE DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF THE SOVIET MEDITERRANEAN FLEET, ITS LINK TO NORTH ATLANTIC DEFENSE, AND IMPRESSIVE US AND NATO EFFORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TO PROVIDE ALLIANCE DEFENSE. THIS WAS LATER REINFORCED IN TALKS WITH VADM POPE AT NISIDA. PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF REPRESENTATIONS THEY MET IN ALL CASES.

5. VISIT TO THE USS INDEPENDENCE ON STATION IN MED WAS THE CAPSTONE OF TRIP. IT GAVE CLEAR RING OF REALITY TO ALL THE EARLIER BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS, DEMONSTRATED CONVINCINGLY THE U.S. NAVY'S OPERATIONAL SKILLS, MOST NOTABLY ON THIS TRIP IN FLIGHT OPERATIONS AND NIGHT TIME REFUELING AND RESUPPLYING. RADM CARROLL (CTF 60), CAPT. SERVICE AND CREW GAVE THE GROUP AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCED OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY IN AN ESPECIALLY WELL-PREPARED SHIPBOARD PROGRAM.  
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6. IN ALL, PARLIAMENTARIANS CAME AWAY WITH A MUCH BETTER APPRECIATION FOR AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ALLIANCE GENERALLY AND OF THE SOUTHERN FLANK AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CENTRAL REGION AND NORTHERN FLANKS.

7. OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST AND ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE SUCCESS OF PARLIAMENTARIAN TOUR GENERALLY, IN BRUSSELS THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT AND EXPLAIN ASSEMBLY'S ROLE BY INVITING THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO DINNER WHILE THEY WERE IN BRUSSELS. THIS INVITATION IS EXPECTED TO BE A CONTINUING ADDITION TO THE PARLIAMENTARIAN TOURS.

8. PARTICIPANTS WERE:

A) VALTER GABRIELSEN, CHAIRMAN PARLIAMENT MARITIME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, MEMBER EXTENDED FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE;

?) MARTIN BUVIK, CONSERVATIVE PARTY WHIP, MEMBER PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND OF PARLIAMENT'S MUNICIPAL AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE;

C) RAGNAR UDJUS, MEMBER CENTER PARTY NATIONAL COMMITTEE, NORWEGIAN ATLANTIC COMMITTEE, AND MARITIME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE;

D) JORGEN SONSTEBO, CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY WHIP MEMBER JUSTICE COMMITTEE, WHICH OVERSEAS NON-MILITARY COASTAL SURVEILLANCE; AND

E) PAUL ENGSTAD, LABOR PARTY GROUP SECRETARY. EMBASSY ESCORTS WERE POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LEGISLATORS, ALLIANCE, VISITS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** OSLO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760384/aaaacwja.tel  
**Line Count:** 186  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FEBRUARY 1976 NATO TOUR FOR NORWEGIAN PARLIMENTARIANS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OTRA, NO, SHAPE, NATO  
**To:** USIA STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006